

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated July 17, 2006, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 13, 15, and 16 are amended. Claims 1-16 remain pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Ellis (U.S. Patent No. 4,629,568).

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8

Claim 1 has been amended to better describe the subject matter recited in the claim. Applicant believes claim 1 is not anticipated by the cited reference since the reference does not include each limitation recited in the claim. For instance, Applicant cannot find in the cited reference: a system configured such that permeate does not enter the flush reservoir while the faucet is turned on, and permeate does not enter the flush reservoir until after the faucet is turned off, when a portion of permeate is delivered to the reservoir and then delivered to the inlet of the module to flush the module, as recited in claim 1. In contrast, the cited reference discusses that during a purifying cycle “[i]n the ‘on’ position (shown in FIG. 2), raw feed water is communicated to the R.O. unit 10 and permeate from the R.O. unit is communicated to the flushing accumulator 100 (and storage tank 24).” (Col. 7, line 67 – Col. 8, line 2).

Claims 2, 4, 5, and 8 include each limitation of their parent claim and are therefore also not anticipated by the cited reference. Moreover, Applicant has amended claim 2 to recite: a first check valve between the permeate outlet and the faucet and a second check valve between the permeate outlet and the flush reservoir. Such subject matter is not discussed in the cited reference. Claim 8 has been amended to clarify that there is not a permeate storage tank communicating with the permeate outlet. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 16

Claim 16 has been amended to better describe the subject matter recited in the claim. Applicant believes claim 16 is not anticipated by the cited reference since the reference does not include each limitation recited in the claim. For instance, Applicant cannot find in the cited reference: delivering a permeate from a permeate outlet of a membrane module to a faucet and while delivering permeate to the faucet, not delivering permeate to a flush reservoir; after the faucet is closed, delivering permeate to the flush reservoir from the permeate outlet; and delivering the permeate in the flush reservoir to a feed water inlet of the membrane module to flush the membrane module. As discussed above, Applicant does not believe the cited reference includes such subject matter. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 3, 9, 10 and 12-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellis (U.S. Patent No. 4,629,568) in view of Gramms et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,512,167).

Claim 3

Claim 3 includes each limitation of parent claim 1 and applicant believes claim 3 is not obvious in view of the cited references since, even if combined, the combination does not include or suggest each limitation recited in the claim. For instance, Applicant cannot find in the cited combination: a system configured such that permeate does not enter the flush reservoir while the faucet is turned on, and permeate does not enter the flush reservoir until after the faucet is turned off, when a portion of permeate is delivered to the reservoir and then delivered to the inlet of the module to flush the module, as recited in claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 9, 10, and 12-15

Claim 9 has been amended to better describe the subject matter recited in the claim. Applicant believes claim 9 is not obvious in view of the cited combination since, even if combined, the combination does not include or suggest each limitation recited in claim 9. For instance, Applicant cannot find in the combination: a reservoir coupled between the permeate

line and the feed line, wherein the system is configured to not sent any permeate to the reservoir while the faucet is open and then to temporarily fill the reservoir with an amount of permeate after the faucet is closed and to deliver the amount of permeate to the module inlet via the feed line.

Claims 10 and 12-15 include each limitation of their parent claim and are therefore also not obvious in view of the cited references.

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellis (U.S. Patent No. 4,629,568) in view of Hart (U.S. Patent No. 6,110,360).

Claims 6 and 7 includes each limitation of parent claim 1 and applicant believes claims 6 and 7 are not obvious in view of the cited references since, even if combined, the combination does not include or suggest each limitation recited in the claim. For instance, Applicant cannot find in the cited combination: a system configured such that permeate does not enter the flush reservoir while the faucet is turned on, and permeate does not enter the flush reservoir until after the faucet is turned off, when a portion of permeate is delivered to the reservoir and then delivered to the inlet of the module to flush the module, as recited in claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellis (U.S. Patent No. 4,629,568) in view of Gramms, and further in view of Hart (U.S. Patent No. 6,110,360).

Claim 11 includes each limitation of parent claim 9 and applicant believes claim 11 is not obvious in view of the cited references since, even if combined, the combination does not include or suggest each limitation recited in the claim. For instance, Applicant cannot find in the cited combination: a reservoir coupled between the permeate line and the feed line, wherein the system is configured to not sent any permeate to the reservoir while the faucet is open and then to temporarily fill the reservoir with an amount of permeate after the faucet is closed and to deliver the amount of permeate to the module inlet via the feed line, as recited in claim 9. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 359-3267 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

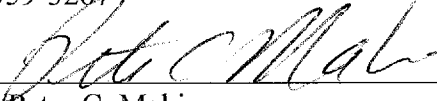
Respectfully submitted,

CHIA KUNG ET AL.

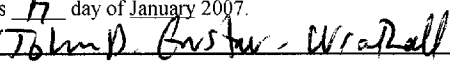
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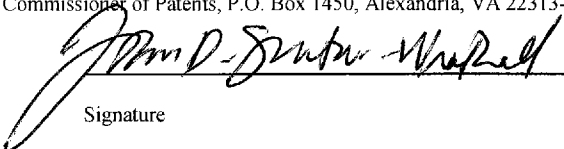
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